

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 28, with the following amended paragraph:

HH  
The information monitoring device 140 monitors the information stream and compares information about a portion of the information stream to a set of rules, such as a threshold. For example, the information about the portion of the information stream can include how long the current discussion forum has been in use, how many messages have been exchanged on the forum, whether there has been a suggestion to create a new discussion forum, whether a certain number of messages on a particular topic have been received within a predetermined time period, whether the rate of messages exchanged on a particular topic has been statistically greater than normal, whether a certain number of forum members have exchanged messages on a particular topic within a predetermined time period, or the like. In general, the rules which trigger the information monitoring device 140 to perform an additional task can be established based on the particular environment and/or forum the forum monitoring device 100 is monitoring. Therefore, for example, the forum monitoring device 100 can have a plurality of sets of rules, wherein different sets of rules apply to specific monitored fora. Alternatively, the information monitoring device 140 can also apply the same set of rules to one or more monitored information streams or fora.